

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 14, 17, 21 and 23 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A detachable connector unit for an electronic apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of first connectors mounted in the housing affording connections to respective peripheral units;

a second connector mounted in the housing and a part thereof projecting from a front surface of the detachable connector unit and affording a detachable connection to the electronic apparatus; and

a pair of fasteners incorporated in the connector unit with said first connectors arranged therebetween and operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus, the length of the housing with the pair of fasteners incorporated therein being substantially equal to the overall length of the detachable connector unit, wherein each of the pair of fasteners comprises a threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions, ~~a part of the threaded shaft projecting outwardly from a-the front surface of the detachable connector unit to connect the housing to the electronic apparatus and a length of a part of each fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit;~~ and

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than a-the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins ~~a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit.~~

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A detachable connector unit for an electronic

apparatus comprising:

a plurality of first connectors affording connections to respective peripheral units;
a second connector detachably connectable to the electronic apparatus; and
a pair of fasteners, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the
detachable connector unit to the electronic apparatus, mounted in the vicinity of respective,
spaced end walls of the detachable connector unit and each of the pair of fasteners comprises:

~~a threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions projecting
outwardly from a front surface of the detachable connector unit; and a length of a part of each
fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state in which the
connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of
the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit; and~~

~~an operating part projecting outwardly from a corresponding recess in the respective
end wall~~

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length
from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector
unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of
each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the
outwardly projecting guide pins.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 3, wherein
each of said pair of fasteners further comprises a fastener housing, connected to the connector
unit and having an interior, and a coil spring within the interior urging the threaded shaft
outwardly from the front surface of the detachable connector unit.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A detachable connector unit for an electronic
apparatus, comprising:

a housing having front and rear surfaces and a height no greater than a thickness of the
electronic apparatus;

a plurality of first connectors, accessible at the rear surface of the housing, detachably
connectable to respective peripheral units;

a second connector mounted on the front surface of the housing and detachably connectable to a mating, third connector mounted on a rear surface of the electronic apparatus by positioning the housing with the front surface thereof in parallel, spaced relationship with the rear surface of the electronic housing and with the second connector aligned with the mating, third connector and moving the housing in a direction toward the rear surface of the electronic housing so as to position the respective, parallel surfaces in contiguous relationship and thereby to connect the second and third connectors;

a pair of fasteners mounted in the housing with said first connectors arranged therebetween and having respective fastening shafts extending resiliently from, and transversely to, the front surface of the housing and disposed therein so as to be aligned with corresponding mating fasteners in the rear surface of the electronic apparatus when the respective second and third connectors are aligned, ~~a length of a part of each fastening each threaded shaft being axially movable between retracted and extended positions~~ projecting from the front surface of the connector unit; and

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than a-the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins~~a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit; and~~

the fastening shafts being resiliently biased by corresponding springs to project from the front surface of the housing and being operable independently of each other to contact and resiliently engage the corresponding mating fasteners in the rear surface of the electronic apparatus and, by rotation of the fastening shafts, to be securely engaged therewith to maintain the contiguous relationship of the respective, parallel surfaces.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 7, wherein: each of said fastening shafts has a screw thread on at least a first portion thereof projecting from the front surface of the housing and an integral second portion extending into a main body of the fastener; and

the main body receives therein a variable length part of the second portion of the fastening shaft, resiliently biasing same by a first force in a first direction to normally cause the

screw thread first portion to project from the front surface of the housing and , further, receives an increasing part of the second portion therein, due to axial movement of the fastening shaft in response to a second force, greater than the first force and in an opposite, second direction, being applied thereto.

10. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 9, wherein each of said fastening shafts furthermore has an enlarged disk disposed thereon, of a diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft and disposed so as to render an arcuate portion of the disk accessible through an opening in the respective end wall of the housing for manual rotation by an operator.

11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 9, wherein: each mating fastener is a mating, female threaded unit receiving the threaded end of the respective fastening shaft.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A combination, comprising:
an electronic apparatus, comprising:
an apparatus housing having a surface defining a width of the apparatus housing and a height corresponding to a thickness of the housing, and
a common connector disposed in the surface; and
a detachable connector unit for the electronic apparatus, comprising:
a connector housing having a corresponding width,
a plurality of first connectors mounted in the housing affording connections to respective peripheral units,
a second connector mounted in the housing and affording a detachable connection to the electronic apparatus, and
a pair of fasteners incorporated in the connector unit with said first connectors arranged therebetween, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus, the length of the housing with the fasteners incorporated therein being substantially equal to the overall length of the detachable connector unit wherein each of the pair of fasteners comprises a threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions, ~~a part of the threaded shaft projecting outwardly from a~~ the front surface of the detachable connector unit; ~~and to connect the housing to the electronic apparatus and a length of a part of each fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state~~

~~in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit~~

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A combination, comprising:

an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an apparatus housing having a surface defining a width of the apparatus housing and a height corresponding to a thickness of the housing, and

a common connector disposed in the surface; and

a detachable connector unit for the electronic apparatus, comprising:

a connector housing having a corresponding width,

a plurality of first connectors affording connections to respective peripheral units,

a second connector detachably connectable to the electronic apparatus, and

a pair of fasteners, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the detachable connector unit to the electronic apparatus, mounted in the vicinity of respective, spaced end walls of the detachable connector unit and each of the pair of fasteners comprises a threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions projecting outwardly from ~~a~~the front surface of the detachable connector unit; and ~~an operating part projecting outwardly from a corresponding recess in the respective end wall and a length of a part of each fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit~~

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 14, wherein each of said pair of fasteners further comprises a fastener housing, connected to the connector unit and having an interior, and a coil spring within the interior urging the threaded shaft outwardly from the front surface of the detachable connector unit.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A combination, comprising:
an electronic apparatus, comprising:
a connector housing having a surface defining a width of the housing and a height corresponding to a thickness of the housing and a corresponding width, and
a common connector disposed in the surface; and
a detachable connector unit for the electronic apparatus, comprising:
a housing having front and rear surfaces and a height no greater than a thickness of the electronic apparatus,
a plurality of first connectors, accessible at the rear surface of the housing, detachably connectable to respective peripheral units,
a second connector mounted on the front surface of the housing and detachably connectable to a mating, third connector mounted on a rear surface of the electronic apparatus by positioning the housing with the front surface thereof in parallel, spaced relationship with the rear surface of the electronic housing and with the second connector aligned with the mating, third connector and moving the housing in a direction toward the rear surface of the electronic housing so as to position the respective, parallel surfaces in contiguous relationship and thereby to connect the second and third connectors,
a pair of fasteners mounted in the housing with said first connectors arranged therebetween and having respective fastening shafts extending resiliently from, and transversely to, the front surface of the housing and disposed therein so as to be aligned with corresponding mating fasteners in the rear surface of the electronic apparatus, when the respective second and third connectors are aligned and a length of a part of each fastening shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions projecting outwardly from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of

~~the connector unit, and~~

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins; and

the fastening shafts being resiliently biased by the corresponding fasteners to project from the front surface of the housing and being operable independently of each other to contact and resiliently engage the corresponding mating fasteners in the rear surface of the electronic apparatus and, by rotation of the fastening shafts, to be securely engaged therewith to maintain the contiguous relationship of the respective, parallel surfaces.

18. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 17, wherein:
each of said fastening shafts has a screw thread on at least a first portion thereof projecting from the front surface of the housing and an integral second portion extending into the respective fastener; and

each of the pair of fasteners receives the second portion of the respective fastening shaft, resiliently biasing same to normally project from the front surface of the housing and to be retracted therein, within a limited extent of axial movement of the fastening shaft.

19. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 18, wherein each of said fastening shafts furthermore has an enlarged disk disposed thereon, of a diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft and disposed so as to render an arcuate portion of the disk accessible through an opening in the respective end wall of the housing for manual rotation by an operator.

20. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The detachable connector unit of claim 18, wherein:
each mating fastener is a mating, female threaded unit receiving the threaded end of the respective fastening shaft.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A detachable connector unit for an electronic apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of first connectors mounted in the housing affording connections to respective

plural peripheral units;

a common, second connector mounted in the housing and having plural terminals therein, connected through respective, separate conduction paths within the housing to respective said first connectors and affording a detachable connection to respective, plural terminals of a common, third connector of the electronic apparatus, the plural terminals of the common, third connector being connected to corresponding circuits of the electronic apparatus; and

a pair of fasteners incorporated in the connector unit with said first connectors arranged therebetween, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus wherein each of the pair of fasteners comprises a threaded shaft ~~to connect the housing to the electronic apparatus, the threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions~~ projecting outwardly from a front surface of the detachable connector unit; and ~~a length of a part of each fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit~~

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins.

22. (CANCELED)

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A detachable connector unit for an electronic apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of first connectors mounted in the housing affording connections to respective plural peripheral units;

a common, second connector mounted in the housing and having plural terminals therein, connected through respective, separate conduction paths within the housing to respective said first connectors affording a detachable connection to respective, plural terminals of a common, third connector of the electronic apparatus the respective, plural terminals of the

common, third connector being connected to corresponding circuits of the electronic apparatus; and

~~a pair of fastener units, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus, mounted in the vicinity of respective, spaced end walls of housing and each comprises a threaded shaft projecting outwardly from a front surface of the detachable connector unit and an operating part projecting outwardly from a corresponding recess in the respective end wall, a length of a part of each fastening shaft projecting from the front surface of the connector unit, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, being shorter than a length of a part of the second connector projecting from the front surface of the connector unit~~

a pair of fasteners, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the detachable connector unit to the electronic apparatus, mounted in the vicinity of respective, spaced end walls of the detachable connector unit and each of the pair of fasteners comprises a threaded shaft axially movable between retracted and extended positions projecting outwardly from the front surface of the detachable connector unit; and

the second connector further comprises guide pins projecting outwardly by a fixed length from the front surface of the detachable connector unit and, in a state in which the connector unit is not attached to the electronic apparatus, the length of an outwardly projecting portion of each threaded shaft, in the retracted position, being shorter than the fixed length of the outwardly projecting guide pins.

24. (CANCELED)